



Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

July 2016



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS, 2014

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Youth and Young Adults Fast Facts

5.8% 
OF ALL RWHAP CLIENTS.

75.1% 
ARE RETAINED IN HIV MEDICAL CARE.

76.0% **LIVE AT OR BELOW 100%** 
OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

64.6% 
ARE VIRALLY SUPPRESSED.

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) works with cities, states, and local community-based organizations to provide HIV care and treatment services to an estimated 512,000 people (2014) who are uninsured or underinsured. RWHAP serves low-income and vulnerable populations of people living with HIV (PLWH). The majority of RWHAP funds support primary medical care and essential support services. A smaller but equally critical portion is used to fund technical assistance, clinical training, and research on innovative models of care.

A significant proportion of RWHAP clients are youth and young adults. In 2014, more than 29,500 (nearly 6 percent) of the more than half a million clients served by the Program were between the ages of 13 and 24 years old. Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- ▶ **The majority of RWHAP clients between the ages of 13 and 24 are racial and ethnic minorities.** Approximately 63 percent of these clients identify as black/African American, which is more than the national RWHAP average (approximately 47 percent). About 19 percent of clients in this age group identify as Hispanic/Latino, which is lower than the national RWHAP average (22 percent).
- ▶ **The majority of RWHAP clients between the ages of 13 and 24 are low-income.** Seventy-six percent of these clients live at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. This is significantly greater than the national RWHAP average (64 percent).

- ▶ **The majority of RWHAP clients between the ages of 13 and 24 are male.** About 70 percent of clients in this age group are male, 29 percent are female, and about 1.5 percent are transgender. The proportions of male, female, and transgender clients in the youth and young adult population are similar to the national RWHAP averages (71 percent male, 28 percent female, and 1 percent transgender).
- ▶ **About 5 percent of RWHAP clients between the ages of 13 and 24 have unstable housing situations.** This is comparable to the national RWHAP average (about 5 percent).
- ▶ **Lack of health care coverage continues to affect youth and young adult clients served by RWHAP.** Approximately 33 percent of these clients have no health care coverage, which is significantly higher than the national RWHAP average (about 25 percent).

Medical care and treatment improves health and decreases transmission of HIV. Approximately 75 percent of RWHAP clients between the ages of 13 and 24 who receive HIV medical care are retained in care, which is less than the national RWHAP average (approximately 80 percent). About 64 percent of RWHAP clients in this age group who receive HIV medical care are virally suppressed, which is significantly less than the national RWHAP average (81 percent).¹

- ▶ Seventy-two percent of young men having sex with men (MSM) receiving HIV medical care are retained in care, and 65 percent receiving HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- ▶ Seventy-two percent of young black MSM receiving HIV medical care are retained in care, and approximately 62 percent receiving HIV medical care are virally suppressed.
- ▶ Seventy-nine percent of young black women receiving HIV medical care are retained in care, and 60 percent receiving HIV medical care are virally suppressed.

¹Retention in care is based on data for PLWH who had at least one outpatient ambulatory medical care (OAMC) visit by September 1 of the measurement year, with a second visit at least 90 days later. Viral suppression is based on data for PLWH who had at least one OAMC visit and at least one viral load test during the measurement year and whose most recent viral load test result was less than 200 copies/mL.

